United Nations A/55/755–S/2001/96

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
31 January 2001

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 64
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 30 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 30 January 2001, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 30 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 14 December 2000 (A/55/693-S/2000/1193) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contains allegations of "violations of the airspace of the Republic" and "of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia".

It will be recalled that similar allegations of so-called "airspace and FIR violations" were rejected in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 18 December 2000 (A/55/701-S/2000/1210, annex). I wish to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever.

As stated in my previous letters, such allegations are based on the deceitful claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This claim of the Greek Cypriot administration does not correspond with the reality in Cyprus, namely the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within their respective territories in the island.

The Greek Cypriot administration has been pursuing a policy of misinformation coupled with its ongoing rearmament efforts within the framework of the joint military doctrine signed with Greece, as well as a policy of reckless escalation in the island. The following recent reports bear testimony to the perilous trend in South Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot weekly newspaper *The Sunday Mail* of 21 January 2001 reported that the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, in its annual report for 2000, *Landmine Monitor*, stated that "despite being a signatory to the treaty there is evidence that the Greek Cypriot side continues to refurbish minefields on its side of the buffer zone." *The Sunday Mail* also reported that concern was expressed in the report since "minefields near the buffer zone have been modified or added to without notice to the UN". It is further reported that in 1995 it was estimated that the Greek Cypriot side had laid about 17,000 landmines in and around the buffer zone since 1974.

A report entitled *International Crime Threat Assessment* issued by the United States Government in December 2000 described the situation in South Cyprus as follows: "With a business environment that features a minimum of regulations and a location astride major commercial routes, Cyprus has been a regional center for arms trafficking, sanctions evasions, and trade in dual-use goods related to weapons of mass destruction ... Banking and corporate secrecy, little or no taxes, and simplified incorporation procedures have made it easy for states of concern, terrorist groups and organized crime groups to set up numerous front companies to facilitate illicit arms transshipments, acquire proscribed technologies and launder funds".

Provocation and raising tension has been a central policy of the Greek Cypriot

United Nations control, harassment of Turkish Cypriots has been a long-practised Greek Cypriot policy. On 1 December 2000, Ömer Gazi Tekoğul, a Turkish Cypriot, was abducted by Greek Cypriot policemen at the village of Pyla and taken to South Cyprus. The circumstances surrounding this clear case of abduction has recently been brought to your attention by President Denktaş in his letter dated 8 January 2001 (see A/55/737-S/2001/58).

It will be recalled that other similar cases of abduction and illegal detention by Greek Cypriot police have taken place in recent years. In October 1995, Erkan Eğmez, a Turkish Cypriot, was also abducted by Greek Cypriot police while working in his fields in the buffer zone in the vicinity of Akincilar village. Eğmez was subjected to torture by the Greek Cypriot police. A medical examination of the victim under United Nations supervision revealed that Eğmez had been subjected to severe torture, and that there were scars and swelling on his body resulting from clubbing and incisions by sharp instruments. After a two-month ordeal, Eğmez was released and returned to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. In December 2000, the European Court of Human Rights found the Greek Cypriot administration guilty of ill treatment and torture of Eğmez.

On behalf of the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, I strongly protest the policy of militarization and provocation as well as the misinformation campaign pursued by the Greek Cypriot administration, which exacerbate the crisis of confidence between the two States and further erode the chances for reconciliation on the island.

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus